



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

Robert WENZ et al.

Examiner: C. Azpiru

Serial No.: 09/853,042

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: May 11, 2001

#6/a
4/11
5-12-02

Title: BIOCEMENTS HAVING IMPROVED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH

AMENDMENT and ELECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

--21. A method of preparing a mixture of powders according to claim 1, comprising:
preparing said precipitated hydroxylapatite (PHA) by

- homogenously mixing CaSO_4 , Na_3PO_4 , and CaCO_3 in an aqueous solution,
- dissolving at least one magnesium salt into said aqueous solution,
- removing resultant precipitate, and
- washing said precipitate with a neutral electrolyte; and

combining said precipitated hydroxylapatite with said tricalcium phosphate (TCP) and said at least one other phosphate-containing inorganic compound.

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